



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

June 2018

The Importance of Controlling Dust

Dear Recipient,

Fugitive dust, also known as airborne particulate matter, includes both the visible and non-visible (fine) dust generated from your operations. Fugitive dust is a regulated air pollutant that contributes to regional haze and affects public health and the environment as follows:

Regional haze - Dust impacts the quality of air in New Hampshire by contributing to the formation of haze and locally affects visibility. Haze consists of fine dust particles, smoke, and moisture suspended in the air that impairs visibility. Haze can be regionally or locally present. Regional Haze is an impairment of ones' ability to clearly see distant features such as a distant mountain. Locally, dust can present a work site hazard and may restrict visibility along the road where it presents a driving hazard.

Health concern - Dust presents a health concern for you, your employees, and the public. Fine dust can penetrate deep into the lungs when inhaled, and has been linked to a variety of serious health problems. Some particles are so small they can cross into the blood stream and cause heart problems too. Even healthy adults engaged in moderate or strenuous outdoor activities can experience the effects of dust pollution.

In addition, the airborne dust settles on nearby vegetation where it affects the vegetation, and any activity that disrupts the settled dust makes it airborne once again where it will further contribute to the health and environmental concerns.

Water Quality - Dust also migrates into nearby surface water where it impacts aquatic communities and contributes to the nutrient loading of the surface water ecosystem.

Fugitive dust is regulated under New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Env-A 1002, *Fugitive Dust*. These rules require that you control dust from all site activities including nights, weekends and holidays. NHDES's web contains information regarding the management of dust:
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/dust/index.htm>.

Your efforts to control fugitive dust help protect public health and New Hampshire's environment. If you have any questions or require assistance, please give call us (603) 271-0907.

Sincerely,
Mark Ledgard
Air Resources Division